

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SUMMARY OF JAPAN'S ENRICHMENT STATUS, JULY 1973

REF: USAEC 0824

SUMMARY: JAPANESE CONSIDERING COOPERATION WITH U.S., FRANCE, AUSTRALIA, CANADA AND SOUTH AFRICA FOR CONSTRUCTION OF URANIUM ENRICHING PLANT. JAPAN APPEARS DEFERRING DECISION ON ALL OTHERS UNTIL POSSIBILITY OF JOINT U.S.-JAPAN URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT CLARIFIED. GOJ (MITI) TENDS STRESS DIVERSIFICATION OF ENRICHED URANIUM SOURCES WHILE UTILITIES, ALTHOUGH STATING NEED DIVERSIFICATION, EMPHASIZE U.S. AS MOST IMPORTANT SOURCE. DURING JUNE 1973 VISIT JAIF TEAM QUESTIONED USSR ON SALE OF ENRICHING SERVICES. USSR REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY BUT IMPLIED NEED FOR AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION AS CONDITION. PRIVATE JAPANESE COMPANIES IN CONTACT WITH THE USSR CONCERNING ENRICHING SERVICE PURCHASES. ESC, REPRESENTING JAPAN, JOINED ACE THIS JUNE. GOVERNMENT SPENDING FOR URANIUM ENRICHMENT FY 1973 STILL STANDS, AS REPORTED IN JAN, AT YEN5,543 MILLION (YEN265/\$1) OF WHICH YEN5,201 MILLION FOR CENTRIFUGE DEVELOPMENT. BUDGET ESTIMATES FY 1974 EXPECTED LATE AUGUST 1973. END SUMMARY.

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1. STATUS OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT IN JAPAN FOLLOWS AS REQUESTED IN REFTELEX.

2. FRANCE - FRANCE AND JAPAN CONCLUDED ONE-YEAR STUDY OF ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL PROBLEMS IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT. STUDIES BEGAN MARCH 24, 1972. PHASE ONE REPORT, ISSUED APRIL 4, 1973, REPORTED CONCLUSION THAT COST OF 8,759 TONS SWU/YEAR DIFFUSION PLANT ABOUT SAME AS US-JAPAN PLANT, \$1.5 BILLION TO \$1.9 BILLION. APRIL 12, 1972, CEA DIRECTOR, M. CECQUEUR, ARRIVED JAPAN TO DISCUSS URANIUM ENRICHMENT PROBLEMS WITH THE JAPANESE AND ADVISABILITY JOINT PHASE TWO STUDIES. PHASE TWO STUDIES INCLUDE SITING, INVESTMENTS, FUNDING AND LEGAL STATUS. JAPAN NOT DECIDED ENTER PHASE TWO STUDIES. MITI VICE MINISTER MOROZUMI REPORTED FAVOR DIVERSIFICATION OF ENRICHED URANIUM SOURCES, BUT HE APPARENTLY HAS NOT GOTTEN SUPPORT OF UTILITIES THAT SEEM FAVOR JAPAN-US JOINT VENTURE. FRANCE SAID IT WANTS DECIDE WITHIN THE YEAR. PECQUEUR, AT PRESS CONFERENCE ON APRIL 19, SAID FRANCE IS TAKING A FLEXIBLE ATTITUDE TOWARD JAPAN'S PARTICIPATION AND EITHER ENRICHING SERVICES CONTRACTS OR CAPITAL INVESTMENT MAY BE ACCEPTABLE. JUNE 6 IT WAS REPORTED THAT FRENCH EMBASSY TOKYO HAD REQUESTED JAPAN'S REPLY TO FRANCE'S PROPOSAL DURING PECQUEUR VISIT. INTERNATIONAL ENRICHMENT PROJECT COUNCIL OF JAEC, CHAIRED BY GORO INOUE, AT JUNE 29 MEETING DECIDED DEFER DECISION ON JAPAN-FRANCE ENRICHMENT PLANT PENDING FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS.

3. AUSTRALIA - AUSTRALIAN MINING MINISTER R.F.X. CONNOR AT MEETING OF AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY JULY 9 SAID AUSTRALIA HAD JOINED ACE TO ACQUIRE THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY IN URANIUM ENRICHMENT. CONNOR ADDED THAT ANY URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT BUILT IN AUSTRALIA WOULD BE BUILT EXCLUSIVELY WITH AUSTRALIAN FUNDS AND SUPPLIED ONLY COUNTRIES THAT HAVE (RATIFIED) THE NPT. AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IN TOKYO CONFIRMED CONNOR'S STATEMENTS BUT SAID STATEMENTS ARE CONNOR'S VIEWS, NOT GOVERNMENT POLICY. EMBASSY ADDED GOVERNMENT POLICY PROBABLY NOT DIFFERENT FROM CONNOR'S VIEWS. CONNOR'S STATEMENTS GENERATED PESSIMISM CONCERNING JAPAN-FRANCE URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT. MANY CONSIDERED SUCH A PLANT WOULD BE BUILT IN AUSTRALIA.

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4. CANADA - CANADA AND JAPAN REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED JOINT CONSTRUCTION URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT AT CONFERENCE ON NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY IN OTTAWA JUNE 4-5, 1973. CANADIAN EMBASSY IN TOKYO SAYS THEIR GOVERNMENT HAS NOT TAKEN POSITION ON JOINT PLANT. NO APPARENT ACTIVITY ON JOINT JAPAN-CANADA ENRICHMENT PLANT.

5. UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA - SOUTH AFRICA REPORTEDLY MADE IN-

FORMAL OFFER THROUGH JAIF FOR JAPAN TO PARTICIPATE IN \$820 MILLION FIRST ENRICHMENT PLANT OR, IF NOT NOW POSSIBLE, IN SECOND PLANT. IN RETURN JAPAN WOULD GET PRIORITY ENRICHMENT SERVICES. JAPAN SAID NOT OVERLY INTERESTED BECAUSE OF LACK OF TECHNICAL DETAILS ON PLANT AND POLITICAL INSTABILITY OF SOUTH AFRICA. SOUTH AFRICA REPORTED CONSIDERING SENDING ITS AEC CHAIRMAN TO DISCUSS THE MATTER.

6. USSR - THE USSR HAS MADE TWO REPORTED OFFERS THIS YEAR TO SELL ENRICHING SERVICES TO JAPAN. FIRST IN JANUARY 1973 AND THE SECOND DURING JAIF TEAM VISIT TO USSR IN JUNE. JAPAN HAS NOT MADE POSITIVE REPLY BUT STUDYING OFFER FROM POINTS OF TECHNICAL FEASIBILITY, SUPPLY GUARANTEES, STABILITY OF SUPPLY AND COMPLETION OF SOME KIND OF AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION, INCLUDING SAFEGUARDS. ACCORDING TO ESC SOURCE, JUNE OFFER TO SELL ENRICHING SERVICES WAS USSR REPLY TO ONE OF A LIST OF QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY JAIF TEAM. SAME ESC SOURCE SAID PRIVATE JAPANESE COMPANIES HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH USSR CONCERNING PURCHASE OF ENRICHING SERVICES.

7. ACE - ESC, REPRESENTING JAPAN, REPORTEDLY JOINED ACE JUNE 1973.

8. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT - JAPAN BUDGETED \$20 MILLION (YEN265/\$1) FOR CENTRIFUGE DEVELOPMENT AND \$1.7 MILLION FOR DIFFUSION DEVELOPMENT JFY 1973. DIFFUSION STUDIES SAID PRIMARILY TO PUT JAPAN IN KNOWLEDGABLE POSITION TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT GAS DIFFUSION URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANT. CENTRIFUGE ENRICHMENT BECAME NATIONAL PROJECT JFY 1973. DURING THIS FY JAPAN WILL BUILD A 180-MACHINE CASCADE. THE MANUFACTURE OF MACHINES AS FOLLOWS: ENRICHMENT SIDE--63 BY TOSHIBA, 63 BY HITACHI; TAILS SIDE--40 BY MITSUBISHI HEAVY INDUSTRIES, 14 BY KAWASAKI HEAVY INDUSTRIES. ACCORDING TO JAEC ANNUAL REPORT UNCLASSIFIED

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ISSUED JULY 20, 1973, JAPAN PLANS BUILD AN INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE CENTRIFUGE ENRICHMENT PLANT FOR OPERATION 1985. CENTRIFUGE PROGRAM CARRIED OUT UNDER PNC. PNC PARTIALLY REORGANIZED MAY 1 TO STREAMLINE NUCLEAR FUEL ACTIVITIES. NUCLEAR FUEL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED AND NUCLEAR FUEL DIVISION WAS ABOLISHED. NUCLEAR FUEL DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT REPORTS DIRECTLY TO PNC PRESIDENT. THREE DIVISIONS UNDER NUCLEAR FUEL DEPARTMENT: TECHNICAL DIVISION, PLUTONIUM DIVISION, AND URANIUM ENRICHMENT DEVELOPMENT DIVISION. LATTER CONDUCTS CENTRIFUGE PROJECT. SHOESMITH

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